



### **Iowa Status**

common; native

### **Iowa Range**

statewide

### **Bibliography**

Iowa Department of Natural Resources. 2001.  
*Biodiversity of Iowa: Aquatic Habitats* CD-ROM.

## **operculate snails**

representative specimens

Kingdom:           Animalia  
Division/Phylum: Mollusca  
Class:               Gastropoda

### **Features**

An operculate snail has an asymmetrical body with a spiral shell. Its muscular foot is used for movement. A small plate on the upper side of the foot can be used to seal the shell when the snail's body is drawn inside. An operculate snail breathes with internal gills. It has two eyes, each at the base of a sensory stalk. The mantle secretes the shell.

### **Natural History**

An operculate snail lives in any body of water with enough calcium carbonate in the water to allow for shell production. It is often found around vegetation. An operculate snail lays its eggs in gelatinous masses in the water. The eggs are attached to rocks or plants. It feeds by scraping algae off plants and other objects in the water with its tongue-like radula, which has teeth. Distribution is presumed to be statewide.

### **Habitats**

Mississippi River; Missouri River; interior rivers and streams; natural lakes and marshes; constructed lakes, ponds, and reservoirs; wet prairies and fens